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Spotlight On... Professional Learning Opportunities

As the school year gets underway, we want to make you aware of a couple professional learning opportunities related to ELA/Literacy. The first is a new professional learning series focused on the use of formative assessment through the lens of ELA/literacy. The second opportunity is a resource which has been added to our online offerings over the summer.

Formative Assessment

Setting reasonable goals, understanding learning targets and success criteria, eliciting and evaluating evidence of learning, and adjusting instructional practices are all actions that support a cycle of formative assessment. Maine DOE is supporting a cohort of teacher leaders to provide professional learning experiences related to formative assessment through the lens of English language arts in each of four regions: northern Maine, Bangor area, central Maine, and southern Maine. Through a series of three successive workshops presented in the Fall, Winter, and early Spring, teachers will explore the formative assessment process, examine exemplar lessons with embedded formative assessment, and learn more about how to respond to assessment data. Teachers are encouraged to come to the session with a teaching colleague so that they can support each other to deepen understanding and reflection. Registration and more details about this opportunity can be accessed [here](#).

Putting Reading First in Maine Videos

Between 2005-2012, the Maine Department of Education administered the Maine Reading First initiative which provided high-quality professional development in research-based reading practices to K-3 regular educators and K-12 special educators across the State. A key resource developed through this initiative is a collection of videos featuring reading instruction and assessment practices happening in Maine schools. The [Putting Reading First in Maine](#) video collection has been added to the Maine Department of Education's online resources. In addition to the videos, a study guide and power points are available to facilitate their use. Maine

Teachers affect eternity; no one can tell where their influence stops.

~Henry Brooks Adams



Students don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

~Anonymous

educators, especially those who work in the K-5 grade span or with secondary level students in need extra assistance with reading, are encouraged to access this collection of resources for professional learning.

Online Resources

[Cross Discipline Literacy Network Webinars](#)

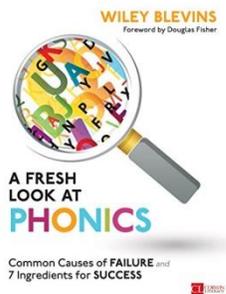
Over a period of several years, the Maine DOE has provided a professional learning network focused on bolstering the use of literacy instruction to benefit teaching and learning across content areas. The network has involved the use of both in-person professional learning as well as webinars developed by Maine educators to showcase particular instructional strategies. The collection contains nearly 80 archived webinars which can be accessed at no cost. Check out the searchable data base to locate webinars that match your professional learning needs and interests.

Professional Texts

Here are some new professional text ideas to jumpstart your thinking as you enter the new school year:

[A Fresh Look at Phonics](#)

Wiley Blevins (2016)



This new text by respected reading expert, Wiley Blevins, provides teachers with a comprehensive and practical guide to effective phonics instruction for all students. Blevins provides clear guidance for the phonics skills students need to be successful readers and writers as well as instructional routines and practices that support phonics learning.

[Educational Blogs](#)

Blogs are another source of professional reading to consider. A couple of reputable blogs to follow include:



Upcoming Professional Development from the Maine DOE

To explore potential training sessions that may be of interest, be sure to check our extensive list of professional development offerings at

www.maine.gov/doe/calendar/



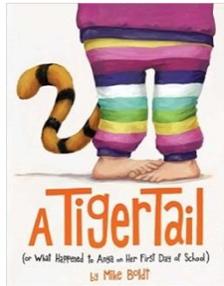
[Ideal Classroom](#) by Sarah Brown Wessling

[Library of Congress](#)

Literature for Children and Adolescents

[A Tiger Tail \(or What Happened to Anya on Her First Day of School\)](#)

Mike Boldt (2016)



Anya wakes up to discover that she has grown a tiger tail. Yes, a striped tiger tail. It also happens to be the first day of school. What will the other kids think? Are girls with tiger tails even allowed to go to school?! Anya is about to find out. From the creative mind of Mike Boldt comes a hilarious and original tale about overcoming back-to-school jitters, making new friends, and taking things in stride (Amazon Review).

[Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children](#)

Ransom Riggs (2014)



Miss Pergrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs debuts in theatres on September 30. The first in a series, this novel introduces the reader to Jacob, who learns that his grandfather's stories about children with supernatural abilities aren't just imaginative tales. Plot twists, continuous surprises, and vivid details propel the reader into the haunting tale where Jacob finds his own special powers.

Compare one story told through different forms and media by also



Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

-William Butler Yeats

The Maine Department
of Education
Phone: 207-624-6600
Web: www.maine.gov/doe

studying *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children: The Graphic Novel*. For a simple approach to evaluating a graphic novel, check out this site which describes a general process for using graphica in the ELA classroom:
<http://gettinggraphic.weebly.com/evaluation.html>

For additional information about this edition, email:
leeann.larsen@maine.gov or morgan.dunton@maine.gov

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